Broadgauge conversion of 'Madmai-Maniyachi section in a phased manner

- 1056. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board Gauge conversion of Madurai-Maniyaehi section of the proposed Karur-Dindigul Railway Project are likely to be started in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the amount to be allocated for thi$_s$ project; and

(c) by when thi$_s$ work would be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHAR AN DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The sanctioned cost of the pro ject (1986-87) is Rs. 44. 26 crores and the present day estimated cost is about Rs. 60 crores.

(c) The work has already beo taken up and rebuilding of bridges is in progress.

Balaramapural Tunnel

1057. SHRI M. VINCENT; Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Balaramapural Tunnel at K. M. 232/15 to 232/1 between Neman and Neyyattaikara on Trivandrum cape (See Appendix CLVI, Annexure No.

(b) if so, the step$_s$ taken t$_0$ reconstruct this tunnel; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the need for $_a$ Railway station at Parvathipuram, keeping in view of the importance of the place, i. e. Nag-arcoil and entire Kanyakumari District who use this important National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHANRAN DAS): (a) The tunnel is in asound condition and is not structurally unsafe.

(b) Reconstruction of th$_e$ tunnel is not considered necessary at this stage.

(c) Th$_e$ need for providing a Railway Station at Parvathipuram has; been examined but the proposal was not found justified.

Rehabilitation of working of Haldia Fertilizer Plant

1058. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICUL TURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation's Haldia plant i$_s$ going to be scrapped as it is not viable; and

(b) if so, what are Government's plans to rehabilitate its over 1800 working hands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT. OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH), fa) N$_0$ decision has been taken to scrap the Haldia fertilizer project.

(b) Options of revamping are being examined and working hands are still in position, therefore, the question of their rehabilitation does not arise.

Benefit $_0$f PDS *to* law paid Govt, employees and wage earners

1059. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a f^{act} that in the re-oriented Public Distribution System even low paid Government employees and wage earners are left out from beneficiaries of th$_e$ system; and

(b) if so, whether the change in the policy has something to do with external pressures to reduce subsidy level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SARWAR HUSSAIN); (a) There is no change in Government's policy on Public Distribution System so far. Th$_e$ Govt. does not intend to reduce the number of beneficiaries so far as weaker ec-tions of the population are concerned.